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amnesty international
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

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UA 331/92 **Legal Concern** **23 October 1992**

INDONESIA: Dadang Trisasongko, human rights lawyer

Amnesty International is concerned at the recent arrest of human rights lawyer Dadang Trisasongko.

Indonesian human rights lawyer, Dadang Trisasongko, has been arrested and accused of subversion by Indonesian authorities for his activities in defence of a village community in East Java. Dadang Trisasongko is a legal adviser at the Surabaya, East Java, office of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, LBH (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum), a respected legal aid organization which provides assistance to the socially and economically disadvantaged, and to victims of human rights violations.

Mr Trisasongko was arrested by police at 9am on 19 October 1992 on charges of "subversion" and "incitement" as he stepped off a boat at Tanjung Perak harbour in Surabaya, East Java. Although precise details of the allegations against him are not yet not known, the LBH believes that he was arrested because of his legal work on behalf of the villagers of Singosari-Gresik, East Java, who have been threatened with eviction from their land to make way for construction by the state electricity company.

Although he was feeling ill, Mr Trisasongko was taken immediately to the office of Police Intelligence on Jalan Ahmad Yani, Surabaya, for questioning. He was reportedly denied the right to have a lawyer present during interrogation - an internationally recognized right also guaranteed under the Indonesian Code of Criminal Procedure (KUHAP).

Following the arrest, the Head of the armed forces Agency for the Reinforcement of National Stability (Bakorstanasda) for East Java, Major General R. Hartono, told the press that Mr Trisasongko had been arrested because his activities "threatened national stability". He said that Mr Trisasongko might be charged under Indonesia's sweeping Anti-Subversion Law, which carries a maximum penalty of death. In a press release, dated 22 October 1992, the LBH national office rejected the allegations, saying that Mr Trisasongko's actions on behalf of the village community had been entirely legal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Indonesia's Anti-Subversion Law (UU Anti-Subversi PNPS/1963) has been used to imprison thousands of real or alleged government opponents since it was introduced by Presidential Decree in 1963. There are currently more than 500 political prisoners held in Indonesia and East Timor, most of whom have been convicted of subversion.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Indonesian or in your own language:
- expressing concern at the recent arrest of the human rights lawyer Dadang Trisasongko in connection with legal defence work on behalf of the community of Singosari-Gresik;

- expressing concern that Mr Trisasongko was denied the right to have a lawyer present during his interrogation by the police, a right which is guaranteed by Indonesia's own Code of Criminal Procedure (KUHAP)

- asking to be informed of the precise reasons for his arrest and of the nature of the charges to be brought against him.

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.*

APPEALS TO:

1. Commander in Chief, Armed Forces
(Pangab)
General Try Sutrisno
Markas Besar ABRI
Jalan Merdeka Barat 13
Cilangkap
Jakarta
Indonesia
Telegrams: General Try Sutrisno, ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: +62-21-361471, +62-21-378144, +62-21-356404
Salutation: Dear General

2. Chief of the National Police
(Kapolri)
General Kunarto
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jalan Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Telegrams: General Kunarto, Kapolri, Jakarta, Selatan, Indonesia
Telephone: +62-21-348537
Salutation: Dear General

3. Military Commander, Military Region V which covers Jawa Timur
(Pangdam V/Brawijaya)
Major General R. Hartono
Markas Besar KODAM V
Surabaya
Jawa Timur
Indonesia
Telegrams: Maj-Gen Hartono, Markas Besar KODAM V, Surabaya, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major-General

4. Chief of Police, Police Region V which covers Jawa Timur
(Kapolda V)
Brigadier General Koesparmono Irsan
Markas Besar Kepolisian
Surabaya,
Jawa Timur
Indonesia
Telegrams: Brig-Gen Koesparmono Irsan, Kapolda V, Surabaya, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Legal Aid Organization
YLBHI
Jalan Diponegoro 74
Jakarta
Indonesia
Fax: +62-21-330140

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 December 1992.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended actions. If possible, send a telegram, telex, fax or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Actions cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly on behalf of victims of grave human rights violations. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action co-ordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.